

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed April 24, 2008. The Specification has been amended to correct some typographical oversights. No new matter was introduced.

At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 12-29 were pending in this Application. Claims 12-29 were rejected. Claims 12, 14, and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-11 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the references cited by the Examiner must disclose all claimed limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). Even if each limitation is disclosed in a combination of references, however, a claim composed of several elements is not proved obvious merely by demonstrating that each of its elements was, independently, known in the prior art. *KSR Int'l. Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007). Rather, the Examiner must identify an apparent reason to combine the known elements in the fashion claimed. *Id.* "Rejections on obviousness grounds cannot be sustained by mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness." *Id.*, citing *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 988 (Fed. Cir. 2006). Finally, the reason must be free of the distortion caused by hindsight bias and may not rely on ex post reasoning. *KSR*, 127 S.Ct. at 1742. In addition, evidence that such a combination was uniquely challenging or difficult tends to show that a claim was not obvious. *Leapfrog Enterprises, Inc. v. Fisher-Price, Inc. and Mattel, Inc.*, 485 F.3d 1157, 1162 (Fed. Cir. 2007), citing *KSR*, 127 S.Ct. at 1741.

Amended Claims 12-29 are Patentable Over the Cited References

Independent Claims 12 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,085,160 issued to Bart D'hoore *et al.* ("*D'hoore*") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0050779 by Soren Riis *et al.* ("*Riis*").

Dependent Claims 13-21 and 23-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over various combinations of *D'hoore*, *Riis*, *Bub* (U.S. Patent No. 6,460,017), *Brill* (U.S. Patent No. 7,047,493) and *Harengel* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0039570).

To justify the combination of the references, the Examiner makes conclusory statements that it "would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to generate inter- and intra-language pronunciation variations as taught by Riis *et al.*, in *D'hoore et al.* because that would held better identify language of the inputted words, by finding the best match among pronunciations of different language." Office Action, Page 4. However, Applicants note that no evidence in the cited references, or any other evidence or record supports this statement. Even if each limitation is disclosed in a combination of references, which Applicants do not concede as discussed below, a claim composed of several elements is not proved obvious merely by demonstrating that each of its elements was, independently, known in the prior art. *KSR Int'l. Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S.Ct. 1727, 1741 (2007). Rather, the rationale to support a conclusion that

the claim would have been obvious is that all the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded nothing more than predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. It can be important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does. If any of these findings cannot be made, then this rationale cannot be used to support a conclusion that the claim would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Examination Guidelines for Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in View of the Supreme Court Decision in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 195, at 57529 (emphasis added).

Furthermore, the Examiner has failed to show that the proposed combination would yield reasonable expectation of success. For example, the Examiner has failed to provide

how combining a text-to-phoneme method as disclosed in *Riis* would work in a speech recognition system that uses language independent acoustic models derived from speech data as disclosed in *D'hoore* would yield reasonable expectation of success.

Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 12-29 are patentably distinct over the cited references, either separately or as combined by the Examiner because the cited reference(s) fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of Claims 12-29. For example, regarding amended Independent Claim 12, the cited references each fail to teach or suggest:

(b) determining phonetic transcripts for each of a plurality of words for *N* various languages not specified as the mother tongue to generate *N* first phoneme sequences for each word corresponding to *N* first pronunciation variants;

(c) determining a phoneme map by mapping the generated first phoneme sequences of each of said *N* languages to a relevant phoneme set of the mother tongue.

D'hoore does not teach these elements of amended Claim 12, as admitted by the Examiner. (Final Office Action, Page 4).

Riis also fails to teach or suggest all the elements of Independent Claim 12. *Riis* discloses a text-to-phoneme model where “a single TTP module 34 is used for *mapping text* directly into pronunciations based on a common multilingual phoneme set pronunciation lexicon module 32.” (Page 3, Paragraph [0032], Lines 1-4; Emphasis added). The *mapping of text* can not be construed as determining a phoneme map by mapping the generated first phoneme sequences of each of said *N* languages to a relevant phoneme set of the mother tongue, as recited in Independent Claim 12.

As another example, amended Independent Claim 22 recites, in part:

a first processing module for determining phonetic transcripts for each word of a plurality of words from *N* various languages in order to obtain *N* first phoneme sequences for each word corresponding to *N* first pronunciation variants;

a second processing module for implementing a mapping of first phoneme sequence of each of N various languages to a particular phoneme set of the mother tongue.

None of *D'hoore* and *Riis*, alone or in combination, teach or suggest (a) a first processing module to obtain N first phoneme sequences, and (b) a second processing module for implementing a mapping of the first phoneme sequence, for at least the reasons discussed above regarding amended Claim 12.

Additionally, *Bub*, *Brill*, and/or *Harengel* each fail to teach or suggest all the elements of Claims 12 and 22.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of amended independent Claims 12 and 22 and all claims that depend therefrom.

Association of Customer Number and Change of Correspondence Address

Applicant respectfully requests that all papers pertaining to the above-captioned patent application be associated with Customer No. **31625**, and direct all correspondence pertaining to this patent application to practitioners at Customer Number **31625**. All telephone calls should be directed to Andreas Grubert at 512.322.2545. A Revocation and Power of Attorney is filed herewith.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

Applicants respectfully submit a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal, along with a Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required to Deposit Account 50-2148 in order to effectuate these filings.

ATTORNEY DOCKET
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PATENT APPLICATION
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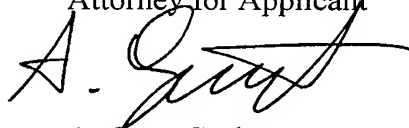
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicant believes there are no additional fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: August 28, 2008

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